

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /078 W

----- 103138

R 041200Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4135

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0709

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PFOR,MARR,SF,UK

SUBJ :SA PRESS GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO REPORT THAT
UK WILL ABROGATE SIMONSTOWN PACT

1. MONDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE FEATURING REPORTS FROM LONDON THAT LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO END SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT. RAND DAILY MAIL SAID DECISION WAS TAKEN IN CABINET MEETING THURSDAY AND WAS LEAKED TO PRESS TO MOLLIFY GROWING ANGER IN LEFT WING OF LABOR PARTY. MAIL ARTICLE SAID U.S.DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS 'ADMITTED'THAT U.S. WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO USE SIMONSTOWN.

2. IN CAPE TOWN, AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER DIE BURGER SPECULATED THAT BRITISH CABINET WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS ENDING SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN ALLIES. DIE BURGER SAID,'IT IS WELL-KNOWN THAT THERE IS STRONG FEELING IN NATO THAT THE DEFENSE OF THE CAPE SEA ROUTE IS HIGH PRIORITY.' IT ADDED THAT U.S.AND FRENCH WOULD CRITIZE BRITISH FOR DECISION ON SIMONSTOWN.

3. CAPE TIMES CARRIED SPECULATION ON U.S.AND FRENCH REACTION ANOTHER STEP FURTHER, SAYING THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES'ARE
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REPORTED TO BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE ROYAL

NAVY AT SIMONSTOWN.' TIMES REPORTED SOUTH AFRICAN MIN DEFENSE
P.W.BOTHA SAID LAST NIGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF REPORTS
FROM LONDON ON ABROGATION OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT BUT THAT HE
HAD NO COMMENT TO MAKE AT THIS TIME.

EDMONDSON

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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